



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Whole No.158

## Vice-President's Report

Alan P. Bentz

52 Cove Road

Stonington CT 06378-2300

I just learned that I had become the new CZSG vice-president, and then was informed that it was customary for the VP to write the 1st quarter report.

Since it is a 2-year position, I needn't broach all subjects in full at this time, but I thought I would mention a few things I think worthy of consideration.

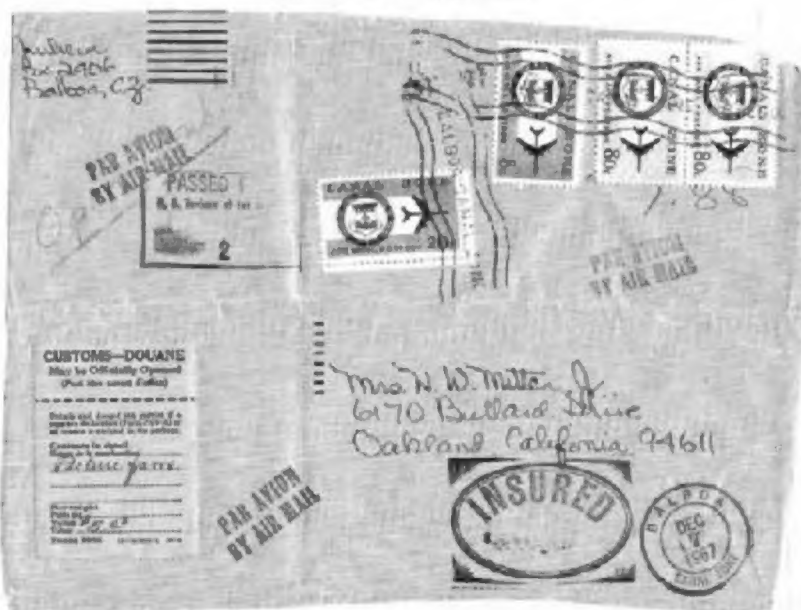
**New Directions?** The first thing is philosophical. The basic statement of purpose of the CZSG is: to "promote the study, research and collecting of materials relating to the Canal Zone." The CZSG also "disseminates knowledge of CZ philately and aids members in acquiring and/or disposing of philatelic materials."

So far, the society has adhered to strictly pure philatelic pursuits in its publication of the *Canal Zone Philatelist*, and its 15 published handbooks. The first Special Publication by Plass, Brewster and Salz (*Canal Zone Stamps*) is a

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## Air Parcel Post

by Tom Brougham



Until 1948 all airmail service from the Canal Zone to the United States and other U.S. Possessions was charged the 'letter' airmail rate even if the item was quite heavy. On September 1, 1948, special zone-related airmail rates were established that could be used for parcels weighing more than 8 ounces between the U.S. and any of its Possessions. Generally,

these rates offered a moderate saving for Canal Zone patrons wishing to send a heavier parcel by airmail to the United States.

CZ parcel wrappers or labels bearing surface postage are rather uncommon. The airmail equivalents are far rarer. One occasionally sees small dated pieces with airmail

(continued on page 3)

## CZSG Meetings Notice

**WESTPEX 2006**, Saturday April 29 at 12:30 p.m., San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA. Our 37th consecutive annual meeting at **WESTPEX**

**PHILATELIC SHOW 2006**, Saturday May 6 at 10am, Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA

**CZSG Northeast Chapter Meeting** Saturday May 27, 10am Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA

**WASHINGTON 2006**, Saturday May 27 at 2pm, Washington, DC Convention Center

**CZSG at National Postal Museum** Tuesday May 30, at 10-12 pm.

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**The Canal Zone  
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**Web Page:  
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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

**CZSG Officers  
Election Report**

A report has been submitted through Secretary John C. Smith regarding the complete ballot results for CZSG Officers and Directors elections. The successful candidates will serve for the two year period: Jan. 1, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2007.

Results are as follows:

**President**

David T. Zemer..... 391 votes

**Vice President**

Alan Bentz..... 265 votes

**Secretary**

John C. Smith..... 381 votes

**Treasurer**

Richard F. Larkin..... 377 votes

**Directors**

Paul Ammons ..... 260 votes

Richard D. Bates, Jr..... 335 votes

Gary B. Weiss ..... 346 votes

**Vote on by-laws**

Yes..... 381 votes

No..... 17 votes

Respectfully submitted,  
**CZSG Elections Committee**

**WANTED – CZP Editor**

Volunteer to take over duties of preparing for publication, the *Canal Zone Philatelist*, please contact Editor for further information.

richard.spielberg@gte.net  
714-693-33349

## Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

No auction firm presented a large quantitative offering of Canal Zone stamps or postal history during the fourth quarter, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2005. However, a number of world-class rarities combined with the scarce and unusual made up a very interesting year end period.

Shown below are some of the most interesting results. The ultimate selling price, representing the addition of hammer plus commission, is shown first followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

- 7, OG, H, VF-XF block of 4, \$604 (\$800) Kelleher
- 10a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, barely F \$154 (\$225) Cherrystone
- 15, dist. OG, H, VF+ \$1980 (\$2600) Rumsey
- 32c, booklet pane of 6, handmade, OG, NH, knife trimmed perfs 2 sides o/w F, \$253 (\$750) Harmer-Schau
- 32c, complete booklet of 2 panes, OG, NH, F-VF, cover style B on tan stock \$863 (\$1500) Harmer-Schau

- 39c, booklet pane of 6, imperf. margins, OG, NH, VF-XF \$690 (\$550) Regency-Superior
- 40a, with Cordoba portrait of 2c, used, sm. tone spots and a corner crease, o/w F-VF \$10350 (\$8750) Bennett
- 46a, overprint reading down, OG, H, F \$230 (\$375) Regency-Superior
- 52b, booklet pane of 6, dist. OG, H, VF \$173 (\$650) Harmer-Schau
- 60b, booklet pane of 6, dist. OG, H, XF \$374 (\$1000) Harmer-Schau
- 86b, CANAL inverted, in pair w/ normal, TG, H, barely F \$748 (\$954) Harmer-Schau
- 97b, complete booklet of 4 panes, OG, NH, F-VF \$2013 (\$2100) Harmer-Schau
- 157a, bridge omitted, OG, NH XF, a 2 margins copy \$6050 (\$7500) RA Siegel
- Zeppelin, flight, Crist. 8/27/29 w/ CZ 95, C1x3 all F or better, on VF cover via NYC to Austria, proper Friedrichshafen b/s, no cachet. Michel 32. \$2013 (\$n/a) Bennett/HA Harmers
- Zeppelin flight, Crist. 5/15/30 w/ CZ C4, C5x2 all F or better, on VF adv. card via NYC w/ U.S. C13 added,

to Germany w/ all proper marks. Sieger 64III, \$1097 (n/a) Bennett/HA Harmers

Zeppelin flight, Crist. 5/8/36 w/ CZ C11x3 all F-VF on VF cover via NYC, Hindenburg flight to Germany, Sieger 409, \$1235 (n/a) Bennett/HA Harmers

The names and addresses of the various auction houses which offered these lots are shown below.

- Matthew Bennett, Inc.**  
1954 Greenspring Drive  
Suite LL18  
Baltimore, MD 21093  
**HA Harmers Auctions SA**  
Via Balestra 7  
6900 Lugano  
Switzerland
- Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers**  
119 W. 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019
- Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc.**  
617A Second St.  
Petaluma, CA 94952
- Daniel F. Kelleher Co., Inc.**  
20 Walnut St.  
Wellesley, MA 02481
- Regency-Superior**  
PO Box 8277  
Saint Louis, MO 63156-8277
- Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Inc.**  
47 Kearny St., Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94108
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.**  
60 East 56th St.  
New York, NY 10022

## Air Parcel Post

*Continued from page 1*

stamps that seem to add up to an air parcel post rate. Nearly all such examples, however, are missing one or more of the elements needed to identify the rate with complete certainty. Frequently on such pieces it is not possible to know whether other stamps have been cut away or the exact date of mailing.

The wrapper shown here is sufficiently complete that it can be positively identified as air parcel post from the Canal Zone. This piece is dated December 7, 1967 and bears \$1.88 in CZ airmail postage. "1.88" is also written on the wrapper partially under the pair of eighty-cent stamps. The piece is handstamped three times "PAR AVION/BY AIR MAIL" and once "INSURED" in an oval. The green Customs label identifies the contents as a "picture frame" with a

value of "\$5.00." It is addressed to California.

For parcel post purposes, all US destinations would have been Zone Eight from the Canal Zone. In 1967 the air parcel post rate for items to Zone Eight was 88¢ for the first pound and 80¢ for a subsequent pound. The insurance fee for items valued at \$5.00 would have been 20¢. These amounts add up to the \$1.88 in postage on the item.

In 1967 the 'letter' airmail rate was 8 cents per ounce up to eight ounces. For the ninth and subsequent ounces, the rate was 5 cents per ounce. There is no combination of the 'letter' airmail rate that adds up to \$1.68 postage after the 20¢ is subtracted for insurance.

Further information is available in *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999* by Beecher and Wawrukiewicz in chapters 8 and 10.

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## Postal History of Army Units on the Canal Zone

by Wayne Worthington

As a collector of Canal Zone postal history related to WWII, I have been searching for a cover from the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade for a long time. The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was roughly 50 men and, since its time on the Zone was very short, I expected the search to be difficult. So far it has been unsuccessful.

The United States Army became responsible for defense of the Panama Canal in 1911 when the Army took over from the U.S. Marines. Army forces were organized as U.S. Troops in Panama. The Commanding General of U.S. Troops in Panama reported to the Eastern Department headquartered in New York.

U.S. Troops in Panama was the major ground force and consisted of two Infantry Regiments, Harbor Defense forces, Coastal Artillery units, and Support Troops. This remained the force in-being until the U.S. entered WWI in April 1917. On 1 July 1917 the Army established the Panama Canal Department (PCD)(Fig. 1) and separated it from the U.S.-based Eastern Department. Like other overseas Departments the PCD then reported directly to the Army Staff in Washington.

Although the Canal was a top defense mission, it was believed that physical geography was an ally. The lack of solid landing beaches on the Atlantic side; mountains, swamps and jungle; and two funneled harbor entrances covered by bunkered rail-mounted long guns and mortars seemed to favor the defenders. Because of all these "strengths" and following WWI, troop units were rarely up to full manning.

Beginning in the 1930s, tensions in the world increased. Defense plans were continually updated based primarily on technology changes, but also on new perceived threat changes. The airplane, submarine and aircraft carrier all changed the definition of threat. Additionally for the Canal Zone, the new Treaty of 1936 gave Panama a greater say in what the United States could

accomplish formerly unilaterally in the area. Finally, the Panamanian Government's expressed fascination with Fascism and the significant presence of German, Italian and Japanese nationals on the Isthmus made an enemy fifth column capable of sabotage a real additional danger.

For the Zone, new defense assessments indicated that Anti-aircraft Artillery units had to be added to the Coastal Artillery and Harbor Defense forces. Mine, Searchlight and Barrage Balloon units had to be added. Field Artillery and Support units had to organize around truck and truck-towed capabilities converting horse-and mule-drawn units. And, finally, because cross-isthmus movement was limited to boat transit, marching or rail, it was determined that ground defense should be based on three fully-manned, modernly-equipped Infantry Regiments.

Prior to the United States entry into WWII, the infantry elements in the Canal Zone were the 14th and 33rd Infantry Regiments. The 14th was on the Atlantic side headquartered at Ft. Davis (Fig. 2) and the 33rd was on the Pacific side primarily stationed at Ft. Clayton (Fig. 3).

During WWII, the principal Army fighting unit was the combat infantry regiment. It was composed of a headquarters company, three combat battalions and support units. Its strength was roughly 3,000 troops. Three regiments along with support troops made up a Division and this is how they were normally deployed in the Army Triangular Concept. There never was, however, an Army Division assigned to the Canal Zone.

Of course, Zone regiments did not operate independently. From July 1917 until September-October 1939 they reported to the PCD. But the Command was faced with a serious configuration challenge.

The Canal and its vital installations crossed the Isthmus of Panama for 50 miles from the Caribbean to the Pacific. The Canal Zone paralleled the Canal and included jungle, swamps, rivers, and the Continental Divide. The Divide cut the Zone into north-south areas; the Canal cut the Zone into east-west areas. This meant the defense was divided into four

segments: Pacific West Bank, Pacific East Bank, Atlantic West Bank and Atlantic East Bank. In order to command these quadrants, the PCD, stationed at Quarry Heights, organized the force into two Sectors appropriately Atlantic Sector and Pacific Sector. The Atlantic Sector was headquartered at Fort De Lesseps and the Pacific Sector was headquartered in Balboa.

Additionally, the PCD's defense role in the region continued to expand. Army Air Corps units, their aircraft and air bases were a major expansion. Early warning sites outside the Zone placed demands for more troops. Enhanced communications capabilities required new secure sites, some outside the Zone. The newly authorized three regiment configuration and plans to create a ground force command to relieve the PCD was beyond planning and into troop selection lists.

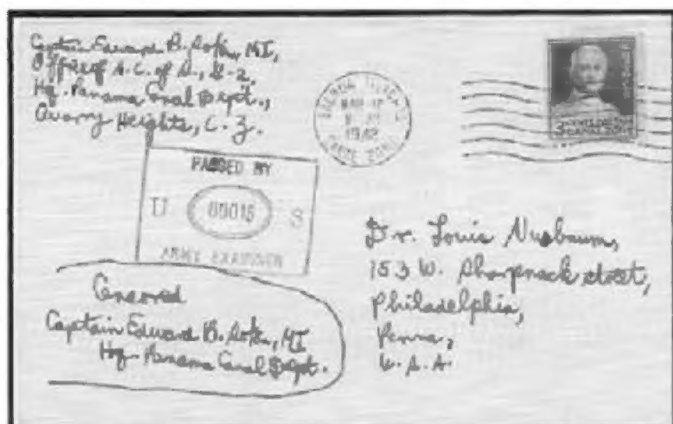
By the summer of 1939, plans to relieve the PCD of direct responsibility for ground defense of the Canal, called for the creation of a mobile ground command, an infantry brigade, a coastal artillery brigade and a centralized air force.

On 1 September 1939, the Panama Mobile Force (PMF)(Fig. 4) was formally organized in the city of Balboa. On 12 February 1941 the command moved to Ft Clayton where it stayed quartered until disbanded on 28 February 1946. Throughout that period the PMF was the major ground force command, reporting to the PCD, for the duration of WWII.

At the end of WWI, Regular Army Brigades had been identified in contingency plans as reinforcements for the overseas Army Departments (Panama Canal, Hawaiian, and Philippine). The 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Headquarters at Ft Devens MA was allocated to the PCD. Anticipating greater defense manning requirements for the Zone, the 18th was ordered to the Canal Zone with two infantry regiments.

To further express national concern for the international situation, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order 8232 on 5 September 1939 directing MG David

(Continued on page 6, illustrations page 5)



**Fig. 1 PCD, March 1942--  
Panama Canal Dept, Quarry Heights**



**Fig. 2 Med Set. 14th Infantry  
November 1942**



**Fig. 3 Company I, 33rd Inf.  
February 1939 Ft Clayton**



**Fig. 4 PMF, March 1942--  
Panama Mobile Force, Ft Clayton**



**Fig. 5 Company M, 5th Inf.  
February 1942, Camp Paraiso**



**Fig. 6 13th Inf., January 1940  
Ft. Wm. Davis**

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Stanton, Shelby L, *Order of Battle, U.S. Army World War II*, Presidio

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USARSO, *A History of Quarry Heights Military Reservation*, USARSO-DEH, undated  
Historian, Archives of Massachusetts National Guard, email 10 May 2005.

(from page 4)

L. Stone, Commanding General of the PCD to assume exclusive authority for the Government of the Canal Zone and operation and defense of the Panama Canal.

On 27 Oct 1939, the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade joined the Canal defenses along with the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Fig. 5) which moved directly to a tent city at Paraiso and the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Fig. 6) which reported to Ft Davis. The 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade joined the Atlantic Sector at Ft Davis as well.

On 16 February 1940, the two Sector Headquarters were disbanded. The Pacific Sector troops were used to complete formation of the PMF and the Atlantic Sector troops joined the CG, 18th Infantry Brigade.

In War Department orders of 14 June 1940, the 18th Infantry Brigade and the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment were disbanded leaving the PMF reporting to the PCD with 3 Infantry Regiments (5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>) of 1833 men each and a separate 300 man Guard and Service Company at Corozal, a 1<sup>st</sup>

Cavalry Troop, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalions to provide the major ground fighting force going into WWII. More on these units in later articles.

The postal history life of the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade is one of a 50-man unit active on the Zone for roughly eight months. I thought I had a Brigade cover with the one shown as Fig. 7. This cover turns out to be from the Coastal Artillery Brigade.

A cover from the 18th would probably read HQs and HQs Co, 18<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde or some version of this return address. The APO would probably be APO 829.

As a collector of Canal Zone postal history related to WWII, I have been searching for a cover from the 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade for a long time. Since its time on the Zone was very short, I expected the search to be difficult. So far it has been unsuccessful.



Fig. 7 Brigade HQ, July 1942, APO 835

## Vice President's Report

Continued from page 1

definitive "Bible" on CZ stamps.

However, the second 'Special' Publication ventured into a new and upcoming medium, namely a CD. It broke new ground as a different medium, but also in content. It told a story in stamps, covers, postal cards, and letters among other things.

Although it broke with tradition, it was still primarily philatelic in the same sense that the newly accepted Display Class has been accepted in philatelic exhibiting. Prize-winning exhibits of philatelic material should be made available to CZ philatelists, and I think the best medium would be on CDs.

### New CZSG Web Site

Tom Brougham has created a new Web Site for the CZSG and the Study Group's Mail Sale. The site address is [www.canalzonestudygroup.com](http://www.canalzonestudygroup.com) and is hosted at Yahoo.

There are seven pages posted so far, including the 'archived' 2005 Mail Sale catalog with color illustrations and prices realized. The pages show

I think that this can broaden our scope, and still lie within the interests of the membership, and the stated purpose of the CZSG.

**CZSG Chapters.** Recently, Mike Demski wrote the President about reactivation of the North Jersey Chapter #1 of the CZSG. It has prompted us to consider starting a Northeast USA Chapter for the group that meets at the PHILATELIC Show in Boxboro MA every spring.

Article II Membership, Section 7 of the Bylaws deals with formation of chapters and requires at least 5 members in good standing. Several West Coast meetings could easily support a chapter.

The establishment of a charter,

some of the range of material that we could post.

There is a link from this new site to the primary CZSG web site hosted at Stamp Shows. The new site has plenty of capacity, so we are not required to confine the CZSG material to a few pages. We could have scores of linked pages if we wished. Readability of the current material

for the chapters, with officers, dues, newsletter, etc. appears to be at the discretion of the chapter.

**CZSG Gold Medal.** Three years ago, I raised the question of the status of the CZSG Gold Medal at ARIPEX in Tucson. The status is still in limbo, and should be resolved.

**CZSG.org.** The Web site for the Study Group appears to have some following, in that correspondence continues to come in with philatelic questions regarding unusual stamps, how to dispose of materials, etc. The feature of the month is usually a cover, or stamp of interest, but recently has tutorials on recognizing CZ Fakes.

could be improved by breaking it into several linked pages. It should be possible for us to add as many announcements, images, lists, charts, forms, etc as we wish – and with short turnaround time too. Please view the Web Site and forward comments to [tombrougham@yahoo.com](mailto:tombrougham@yahoo.com)

Tom Brougham



## Work-up on Scott CZ No. 39a

R. D. Bates, Jr.

What looks like an attractive enough example of CZ No. 39a, a horizontal pair one without overprint, has an added feature that stirs the heart of a fly-speck seeker.

Occasionally close examination of an overprinted stamp will reveal additional ink with the same characteristics as that of the overprint itself. If the additional ink is regular in shape and/or is aligned with, either perpendicular to or parallel with, with the words in the overprint, the likely cause is what is known as a work-up.



Fig. 1 Scott No. 39a with work-up

In this case, there is an additional block of ink in line with the ZONE overprint on the left stamp. The pair is shown in Fig. 1, with the area including the ZONE overprint on the left stamp enlarged in Fig. 2. This block of ink is 2.7 mm high by approximately 3 mm wide and the leading edge is about 4.1 mm before the beginning of the left side of the Z in ZONE.

A work-up arises when some of the



Fig. 2 Enlargement of work-up preceding ZONE in overprint

hardware used to hold the overprint type or slugs in the form used to do the overprinting become elevated and then is inked, allowing it to be printed just as the inked type does. The hardware has "worked up". The process has been described very nicely in an early article in the CZP [CZP: 11, 15 (1969)] by George Brett who passed away recently. He had been a, if not the, leading authority on the printing processes by which CANAL ZONE issues have been created, particularly those issued by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. He defines a work-up to be a piece of spacing material that is unintentionally at the upper surface of a form and has started to print during a press run. The spacing material, of various shapes and sizes, is used to hold the loose type or the individual word slugs in place in the form which is used to overprint the stamps.

Examples are known on both Bureau issued overprints of U.S. stamps, and on overprinted Panama stamps. But none has been reported on the seventh series with type II overprints which are assigned Scott No. 38-41. Scott 39a received some comment in the CZP not too long ago [See CZP 121:44 (1996) and CZP

124:36 (1997)] which documents that there are both right marginal pairs and left marginal pairs, and noting that the Shreve's Philatelic Galleries sale of November 15-16, 1996 offered examples of both varieties from the James Helme collection. In that Sale they are both identified as Scott 39a, as they are referred to in the two CZP articles. Scott has since renumbered them as 39a (right marginal pair) and 39b (left marginal pair) to reflect the fact they are distinct varieties. The pair illustrated in Fig. 1 is from lot #1144 of that sale, although at that time it was part of a block of eight from the lower right corner of a pane, with two of the 39a variety plus four additional copies of No. 39. A PSE Certificate for the block of 8 accompanied this pair.

Knowing this pair came from the block determines that the pair is from positions 89 and 90. The stamp with the work up would normally be pos. 90, except here it appears on pos. 89 due to the shift. Other normal copies of pos. 90 of No. 39 could show the work up as well, so it is surprising it has not been reported. How many would exist depends on how far into the press run the hardware that worked up took on ink and printed with the rest of the overprint, and how soon thereafter it was spotted by the pressman and put back in its proper spot. There could be many examples extant, or there could be very few. This one, occurring in a 39a pair, is of special interest.

## Special CZSG Meeting at the National Postal Museum 30 May, Washington D.C.

by David Zemer

The CZSG has been invited to meet with the staff of the National Postal Museum (NPM) the morning of Tuesday May 30, from 10-12 pm. As this is only 3 days after our meeting at **Washington 2006** we hope that many of our members will attend.

This meeting will take place at the NPM and will give our members a unique opportunity to see some of the material from the archives of the Canal Zone Postal Service. They will also learn more about the **Arago Project** and how they can contribute to it.

The NPM has plans to scan many

documents associated with the stamps of the Canal Zone and correlated them with the associated Scott catalogue numbers and they will be accessible on-line and ready for research. When researchers have described these documents the NPM will set up interactive links to scans and photographs of the design material that they have from the Canal Zone Postal archives. Later they will add links to outside collections and images from private collections to add to their virtual collection.

The NPM will have a large area set aside at **Washington 2006** which will

include many computers connected to their collections. If the material available on-line from the Canal Zone has been described by the time that this exhibition has opened then it too can be viewed by the many visitors to this once-every-10-year show.

There is a lot of work to be done and our members are encouraged to volunteer. For details on how to volunteer and who to contact please see the article on the NPM in CZP, page 17, Whole No. 156 by Brougham and Foley or contact any of our officers.

## **Canal Zone Only**

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12.Bb, 12.C, 12.D, 12.Ea, & 12.Eb

### **#13**

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